

Lesson 21. Vehicle Security

Lesson Purpose

To focus on a broad range of strategies for reducing the risk of vehicle theft.

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe key strategies for protecting a vehicle and related property.
- Identify strategies to avoid buying a stolen vehicle.

Materials

Presentation: Vehicle Security

Handout(s): *“How Can I Reduce the Risk of My Vehicle Being Stolen?”* and *“Vehicle Security”* (optional)

Supplement: Display newspaper and magazine articles about vehicle theft or tips for preventing vehicle theft.

Related Resources

National Crime Prevention Council, www.ncpc.org

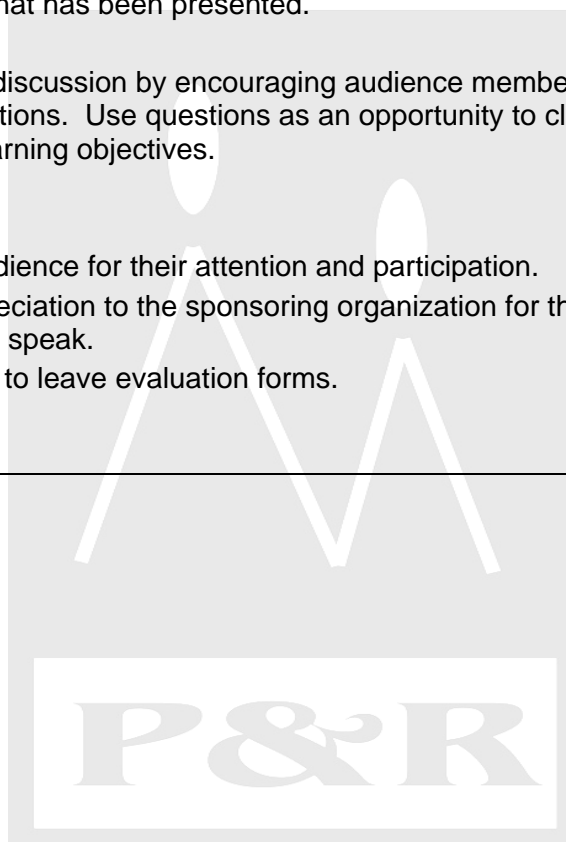
Lesson Plan

Time	Main Points	Slides
Introduction		
5 min.	Don't make it easy for professional thieves or joy riders to take <i>your</i> wheels.	1 - 2
	Briefly describe a local example of vehicle theft.	
	Today, we will talk about key strategies for protecting your vehicle, bike or motorcycle and how to avoid buying a stolen vehicle.	2
	Distribute handout: <i>“How Can I Reduce the Risk of My Vehicle Being Stolen?”</i>	

Time	Main Points	Slides
Presentation		
8 min.	Protect your vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lock your car, and pocket the key, when you leave. ▪ Close windows all the way and make sure the trunk is locked. ▪ Control your keys. ▪ Never leave an identification tag on your key ring. If your keys are lost or stolen, it could help a thief locate your car and burglarize your home. ▪ Don't leave your registration inside your vehicle. 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Never leave important identification papers or credit cards in the glove compartment. ▪ Store packages in your trunk if possible. If you do leave packages, clothing or other articles in the car, make sure they are out of sight. ▪ Park in well-lit, busy areas. ▪ Avoid leaving your vehicle in unattended parking lots for long periods of time. 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If you park in a lot where you must leave a key, leave the ignition key only, to protect items in the trunk or the glove box. ▪ When buying a car, ask about anti-theft options. ▪ Keep your car's Vehicle Identification Number (VIN), and a complete description, in a safe place at home. 	5
4 min.	Bicycles, motorcycles and trail bikes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Park out of sight in a garage or basement, or use a cover. ▪ Engrave an identification number recommended by local law enforcement. ▪ Lock all bicycles with a case-hardened chain or a cable and lock, winding the cable through the frame and both wheels and then around a fixed object. ▪ Use the fork lock found on most street motorcycles. ▪ Watch out for key numbers! Write down your key number, store the number in a safe place, and then file it off the lock. 	6
3 min.	Trucks and RVs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some specialized vehicles don't have VINs and should be marked with another ID number. ▪ Lock up easy-to-carry items, like motors and camping gear, before leaving your vehicle. ▪ Use secured "toppers" or tool boxes for your truck. Don't assume a thief can't lift a box because it's heavy. 	7
1 min.	Cellular phone/CB alert! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Secure cellular phones and citizens' band radios. ▪ Keep a record of serial and model numbers, and engrave an identifying number on the phone or radio. 	8

Time	Main Points	Slides
1 min.	License plates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> License plates frequently are stolen from cars and used on stolen cars used in other crimes. Get in the habit of checking your plates when you drive. A few drops of solder on the bolts or blurring the threads can help safeguard your plates. 	9
5 min.	Avoid buying a stolen vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verify that the VIN plate is intact and check it against the VIN on the ownership documents. Check the vehicle's history, past financing and insurance information. Verify this information with the bank or insurance company. Be wary when purchasing used auto parts—you could be patronizing a “chop shop” where stolen goods are sold, and you could be indirectly encouraging auto theft. 	10
3 min.	If it happens to you If your vehicle is broken into, or stolen, inform law enforcement immediately. Stolen vehicles may be used in the commission of other crimes. Your quick action may aid in recovering your vehicle and preventing its use for illegal purposes.	11
2 min.	Summarizing (briefly highlight each topic area) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ways to protect your vehicle. Your bike or motorcycle. Your truck or RV. License plate. Ways to avoid buying a stolen vehicle. 	12
Practice/feedback		
10 min.	Have participants review the list of vehicle security strategies in their handout. Ask them to place a checkmark (✓) beside the things they now do and to place an asterisk (*) beside the things that they need to begin to do. Give participants 5 to 7 minutes to complete this review. The instructor should circulate among the participants during this time. Conclude the activity by asking 2 or 3 volunteer participants to share what they learned from the review. The instructor should reinforce prevention strategies and key learning points.	13

Time	Main Points	Slides
Evaluation		
10 min.	<p>Set-up</p> <p>We have a few minutes for questions and additional discussion. While we're doing that, we have a brief evaluation form we'd like for you to complete and leave with us. Your name is not required, but your feedback is very important. It will help us improve our presentation and program.</p> <p>Distribute evaluation forms and ask for questions or additional comments on what has been presented.</p> <p>Promote group discussion by encouraging audience members to help respond to questions. Use questions as an opportunity to clarify and reinforce key learning objectives.</p> <p>Wrap-up</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thank the audience for their attention and participation. ▪ Express appreciation to the sponsoring organization for the opportunity to speak. ▪ Remind them to leave evaluation forms. 	14



21. Vehicle Security

Please tell us what you think about this lesson by circling the numbers that most closely reflect your opinions.

After this lesson . . .	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
a) I now can identify key security strategies for protecting a vehicle.	1	2	3	4
b) I now know more about securing motorcycles, bicycles and trail bikes.	1	2	3	4
c) I know more strategies for protecting my license plate.	1	2	3	4
d) I know more about how to avoid buying a stolen vehicle.	1	2	3	4
About this lesson . . .				
e) The information presented was valuable.	1	2	3	4
f) The lesson was presented in a clear and understandable manner.	1	2	3	4
g) Lesson activities and discussion were helpful.	1	2	3	4
h) I would recommend this lesson to others.	1	2	3	4

What was the most valuable thing you learned?

Please give one example of how you plan to use the information presented in this lesson.

How could this lesson be improved?

